[President.]

very glad to acknowledge that in the Select Committee we have been able to get through without any opposition or controversy, and the bill has been finally passed. I wish to express my thanks for the kind sentiments expressed by Mr. Velu Pillai and for the regard he has shown to me.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, the Dewan will come here to formally prorogue the Council. I request you, gentlemen, to sit here for a few minutes longer.

Dewan Bahadur T. Raghaviah, C. S. I., Dewan, then took the Chair.

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

With the present session, the term of the first Legislative Council, constituted under Regulation II of 1097, comes to a close, and on this occasion our thoughts naturally go back to the great Sovereign to whose parental solicitude for the welfare and contentment of his subjects we owe this reformed institution. Well indeed has the non-official business of this Council closed with the unanimous acceptance of the resolution moved by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai for enshrining his hallowed memory in a befitting manner.

I feel it a great privilege to have been entrusted with the duty of bringing this reformed Council into being and to have been called upon to preside over its deliberations during its first term. No one is more conscious of my shortcomings than myself, but I have uniformly endeavoured to promote the best interests of the institution committed by His late Highness to my charge. I have had the good fortune to have associated with me, as the Deputy President of the Council, a gentleman well known throughout the country, who, while maintaining a sturdy independence of views, has been ever solicitous to aid me with his ripe experience. (Mr. A. Hoogewerf: *Hear, hear.*)

There can, I think, be no two opinions as to the solid nature of the work that this Council has done during the first term, or the great influence for good that it has exercised on the administration of the State. The first meeting of the Council, as you may remember, was held in Karkatakam 1097. Including the current session of the Council, there have been six sessions in all and twelve meetings covering a period of seventy-nine days. Twenty Government Bills and one private Bill were introduced; eleven of these have become Regulations, and six including the Ezhava Bill introduced in the previous Council have been finally read. Two among the Bills finally read, *viz.*, the Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill and the Ezhava Bill, both of which will now be placed on the Statute Book, are two valuable pieces of social legislation, intended to enhance the contentment and prosperity of two important sections of the people of this country, and this Council may well look back with pride upon its labours in enacting them. The Village

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Panchayat Bill, the third reading of which is also over, is another legislative measure pregnant with great possibilities. In spheres other than legislation, the work of the Council has been equally valuable. Answers were elicited from the Governmental benches in regard to 1,431 interpellations dealing with the administrative actions of the Government and their officers. Of the 153 resolutions on matters of public importance balloted for discussion, 40 were actually discussed. The opportunities thereby afforded have served, I trust, to clear doubts and correct prejudices, and conduced to the promotion of cordiality between the officers of Government and the responsible representatives of the people and to a better mutual understanding of their different view-points. They have also enabled the Government to gauge aright the nature and volume of popular grievances, to remove popular misconceptions where they exist, and to conduct the administration of the State in accord with popular aspirations. The budgets for the years 1098, 1099 and 1100 M. E. were passed by the Council. 176, 454 and 388 motions for reduction or omission of grants were respectively proposed, and reductions to the extent of Rs. 49,536, Rs. 8,958, and Rs. 22,255, were made. It is unnecessary to say how happy I feel in the reflection that not a single occasion has arisen since the inauguration of this Council to force me to exercise any of the reserve powers vested in the Dewan by the Regulation. (*Hear, hear*). On occasions when Government felt that a cut made by the Council would be detrimental to the interests of the administration, they came again to the Council for a reconsideration and it has been possible to arrive at a working compromise.

To me, as the President of the Council, it is a source of genuine gratification to think that it has been my good fortune to receive constant help and support at your hands in the building up of sound parliamentary traditions. The authority of the Chair has throughout been ungrudgingly acquiesced in by all of you; and I must tender every one of you, both official and non-official, my cordial thanks for the generous measure of co-operation which you have extended to me in all matters.

It now remains for me to discharge the sad duty of bidding you farewell. It may not be that all of us will meet together again as members of the Council in this hall. To one and all of you, nevertheless, a career lies ahead, however varied it may be, in which, with the valuable experience that you have gathered in this Council, it will be possible for you to promote the orderly progress of this State. I wish all happiness and prosperity to you in such a career, whether in the Council or outside, and my hearty good wishes go with you.

This Council will now stand prorogued until such date as the Government may fix for its dissolution. (*Applause*).

Mr. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, the hour of parting having been announced by you, it behoves us, the Members of this Council, to express, however imperfectly, our genuine feelings regarding our relations with you as the President of this Council. First of all, we

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[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

have got the fact that you happened to be the Minister of the State at the time when the question of reorganising this Council was engaging the attention of Government. As I have already observed on a prior occasion in connection with the establishment of this Council, your name, along with the name of His Highness the late Maha Raja of Travancore, will be ever treasured up in the minds of the people of Travancore in grateful recognition of the establishment of this great institution. (*Applause*). From the year 1063, that is soon after His Highness the late Maha Raja came to the throne of the State, His Highness had been evincing a desire to bring the people of this State into close contact with Government measures, and from the year 1063 onwards till 1097, when this Council was established by the grace of the late Maha Raja, a series of progressive steps were taken in the matter of bringing the people of the State into yet closer union with the Government. Sir, it is extremely gratifying to say that it is an eternal source of pleasure to us that your name happens to be connected with the reorganisation of this Council. The very great, earnest and sincere desire that you have been evincing all along as the President of this Council to make it as useful an institution as possible is sufficient from our standpoint to enhance the feelings of pleasure and gratefulness that we feel towards you.

On behalf of my brother members and myself, let me beg your pardon for the occasional frictious and resistant nature displayed by some of us on this side of the House, not out of any cantankerous spirit, Sir, we are prepared to assure you, but because of honest differences of opinion which we thought we had an opportunity to agitate before you. We have never misunderstood you so far as your good intentions towards the Council is concerned, and our hope is that you too have never misunderstood us with respect to our doings in this Council. Quarrels certainly we are bound to have so long as all disputes are seen to arise out of imperfect facts and figures and the limitations of human intellect have to be reckoned with as a factor; and so long as such is the fact, some disagreements are sure to arise, and let us assure you that, in spite of that fact, our feelings have never been darkened with respect to the genuine and warm attitude that you have been showing towards the working of this Council and the members of this body. Now that the time for parting has arrived, on behalf of myself and my brothers, I assure you, Sir, of our sincerest thanks for the work you have done in connection with this Council and the genuine sympathy you have been evincing for the future development of this institution. With these words, I beg your permission, Sir, to resume my seat (*Cheers.*)

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I have great pleasure in associating myself with all that has been said by my friend Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai. With your permission, Sir, I beg to add a few words of my own. Various thoughts pass through our minds at this hour of parting as to what we have done and as to what

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we have omitted to do during our career. But the one feeling that is uppermost in our minds is about the amiable conduct of the President and the harmonious relations (*Cheers*) we had with him all along. We all feel proud of the first President of the enlarged Legislative Council whose behaviour in the Council may almost be called ideal. We all admire and appreciate the tact, ability and courtesy with which you conducted our deliberations. You never preferred official interest to non-official interest. We on this side of the House owe a great deal to you, Sir, as the President and also to our official brethren including the able Law Member, the amiable Secretary, and his ever-willing staff for what we have been able to do. We had our own difficulties in knowing full particulars or correct details of what takes place in official circles, and if we have erred or gone astray in our dealings with official friends, I am sure they will not misunderstand us but realise that we have been only trying in our own way to serve the country which we love so much. We might not have done all that abler men would have done: let our achievement be judged by our countrymen. We have one consolation—that we have attempted at some of the most important and complicated social and other legislations and have tackled or rather tried to tackle several of the important and complicated administrative problems. Sir, we owe very much to your sympathy and encouragement for what we have been able to do in this direction. In conclusion, I may be permitted to say that your name will ever be remembered by the people of this country for the great and far-reaching reforms effected in the Legislative Council and for the able manner in which you have conducted its deliberations for the last three years. (*Cheers*).

KHAN SAHIB M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): On behalf of my community and on my own behalf, I fully associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my colleagues Messrs. Narayana Pillai and Nidiry.

The establishment of this Council marks an epoch-making event in the history of this State, and its far-reaching influence on the course of her history cannot be adequately gauged at this moment. Your share, Sir, in its initiation and the diligence, patience, tact and paternal solicitude with which you have watched and guided its progress will ever be remembered with grateful feelings by all the people of this country and your name will find an honoured place in the galaxy of statesmen who have contributed to the constitutional advancement in the government of this State. I request you, Sir, to convey to Her Most Gracious Highness the Maha Rani Regent our deep and law-abiding loyalty to the person and throne of Her Highness and to the royal family of Travancore (*Hear, hear*).

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I also beg to associate myself with what has been said by the previous speakers. I, as a nominated member, Sir, have to thank you for the great liberty you have given me, a retired Government servant, to express my own humble views before this House, and I also join in the prayer—and I hope I am sure it is the

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[Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.]

prayer of all the members present here—that you will be pleased to convey to our beloved Sovereign Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent who adorns the throne of Travancore to-day our humble homage to her person and throne.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, may I also be permitted to say a word on this occasion? The attitude you have taken in the deliberations of this Council as its President and the interest you have evinced in the welfare of the subjects of this State have been adverted to by the previous speakers. I should like to mention one particular circumstance with respect to your relationship with this Council. Soon after your taking charge of the administration of this country, you seemed to have been impressed with the necessity of effecting a reform in the Legislative Council which had been reformed about 18 months before you assumed charge of the administration. We never expected that soon after your taking charge of the administration such an important change would be effected by you. The reform involved a very great and radical change in the administration of the country and its executive affairs. The boldness with which you conceived the reforms and the readiness with which you brought it into existence will always be remembered by the people of this country. The uniform courtesy and the interest that you have shown as President of this Council is, as has been characterised by the previous speakers, almost ideal and exemplary. As a member representing the Ezhava community, I have particularly to thank you for the very great interest you have taken in seeing that the Travancore Ezhava Bill is passed into law before the closing of this Council. (Mr. A. Hoogewerf: *Hear, hear,*). I hope that the shortcomings that you might have noticed in the non-official members in the discharge of their duties will be excused by you. I thank you once more, Sir, for the very great interest you have taken in the welfare of the various communities in this country (*Cheers*).

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Sir, in response to the royal message which you conveyed to us when the Council was inaugurated, I submitted that it would be the earnest endeavour of my friends on both sides of this House to discharge their duties to the best of their knowledge, ability and judgment. A retrospect and examination of the work of the Council since then has convinced me that I have absolutely no reason to regret the highly optimistic and hopeful tone in which I spoke for my friends then. Your ideal temperament as President, Sir, (*cheers*) has enabled this Council to do a good deal of useful work. Irritation, annoyance and excitement are all incidental to debates in human assemblies, but the kindness and courtesy and impartiality with which you treated the members of this Council, official and non-official, and the solicitude you showed all along to give the Council a large measure of freedom in exploring the different avenues of public administration certainly have endeared you to all the members of this House, and I know that I am not using the language of convention when I assure you, Sir, that my friends who

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spoke before me simply expressed the thoughts passing through the innermost depths of their hearts (*Hear, hear*). One thing that must strike this House and the public generally was referred to by you in your address, and that is that, though occasions there were on which some demands of Government were vetoed by the Council, your desire to develop in the Council a high sense of responsibility practically stood in the way of your restoring these grants. To my mind it appears that the habit of certifying necessarily implies lack of confidence either in the capacity or the integrity of the Council. That leads to considerable misunderstanding between the two sides of the House. Possibly, Sir, circumstances may arise in which the executive may have to exercise the extraordinary powers vested in them. But there must be very exceptional circumstances and it appears to me that an ideal non-official President could not have treated the Council better than you have been treating it (*cheers*) for all these three years. People generally are anxious to have non-official Presidents under the impression that non-officials alone can take a detached view free from the associations of office and the requirements of the State. If official Presidents will keep up the high standard set by you, I do not think we on this side would ever insist on having a non-official President. Sir, let me tender you my warmest thanks for the more than appreciative way in which you referred to me. I consider myself to have been particularly fortunate in having been connected in some form or other with the first Legislative Assembly in the State having a non-official majority with extensive powers both of legislation and of control of the administration. I wish, Sir, that those whose privilege and duty will be to step into the shoes of the members of the present Council will keep up the present traditions and maintain a relation of absolute cordiality and good understanding between the official and the non-official benches (*Cheers*).

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, I feel it my duty to associate myself with all that has been said by my friends who have spoken before me in regard to the able way in which you guided the deliberations of this Council during the first term of its existence. To you, Sir, the credit of having inaugurated this Council, which perhaps represents the largest measure of self-government which has been allowed in any Indian State, is due (Mr. Hoogewerf *Hear, hear*). When I consider the circumstances under which this Council came into being, I feel that but for your advent in this country at that time it would have been impossible for this Council to be established then (*cheers*). Regulation I of 1095 had not been eighteen months old before you had the courage to repeal it and to call into existence the new Council. At that time, as one associated with the agitation against that Regulation I may assure you, Sir, I had not the slightest idea that Regulation I of 1095 would be repealed so soon and that the new one would be substituted in its place. With the unerring instinct of a true statesman, you discovered, as soon as you came here, what was wrong in the country and corrected it by initiating this measure of legislation which gave universal satisfaction at that time. To you, also, Sir, is due the

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[Mr. Trivikramar Vasudevar.]

credit of having guided this Council through its initial, or, I may say, infant, stage. Everybody who spoke agreed that your uniform kindness, courtesy and statesmanship enabled you to guide the deliberations of this Council and to make it a success which it would have been impossible otherwise to acnieve. That this Council has been able to do so much work is not a little due to your ability and patience. I therefore once more associate myself with my friends in all the sentiments that they have expressed in regard to the way in which you have conducted yourself as President of this Council. We may also acknowledge our indebtedness to the Deputy President who also did his level best to assist and guide the Council in its early stage. I think it may not also be out of place to join with some of my friends to refer to the labours of my friend Mr. Subba Aiyar in this Council. I do not think that there is any one in the Council, official or non-official, who can speak with greater authority than myself about him. Mr. Subba Aiyar and I entered this Council almost simultaneously, almost at the same meeting. Since then, I have been a member of this Council except for the short period of about a year and half, *i. e.*, during the life of the Council established under Regulation I of 1095. During his time more legislative enactments were passed than during the time of any other member of this Council. In piloting all these legislative enactments through the Council, I need hardly say that Mr. Subba Aiyar showed considerable ability, mastery of details and legal acumen, and the success of these enactments has been due not a little to Mr. Subba Aiyar (President : *Hear, hear*) (*Cheers*). The uniform courtesy and the good temper which Mr. Subba Aiyar displayed throughout in this Council are remarkable. There was not one occasion on which, whatever may have been the heat of the discussion, he lost his temper. Many of us, though we have tried our level best to keep our temper, might have failed. But Mr. Subba Aiyar never failed. Therefore, the House is greatly indebted to Mr. Subba Aiyar for the way in which he conducted himself in the deliberations of this Council. (*Cheers.*)

MR TRIVIKRAMAR VASUDEVAR (*Jennies*): എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതന്മാരുടെ അനുമോദനത്തോടുകൂടി എനിക്കും അങ്ങേ അനുമോദിക്കാൻ വളരെ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. പുത്രനിർവിശേഷമായി പ്രജകളെ പരിപാലിക്കുന്ന തിരുമനസ്സിലെപോലെ പ്രജകളെ പരിപാലിക്കുന്ന ദിവാൻജി എന്ന നിലയിലും കൌൺസിലിലെ പ്രസിഡൻറ എന്ന നിലയിലും അങ്ങേ ഞാൻ വളരെയധികം അനുമോദിക്കുന്നു.

പല സമുദായങ്ങളും അടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്ന കൌൺസിലിനെ യാതൊരു വ്യത്യസ്തഭാവംകൂടാതെ വളരെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യങ്ങളും വേണ്ട ഉപദേശങ്ങളും തന്നതിലുള്ള നന്ദിയെ ഞങ്ങൾ എന്നന്നേയ്ക്കും മറക്കുന്നതല്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഒരനുഗ്രഹം സിദ്ധിക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞ അങ്ങേയുടെ മേല്മേൽ വളരെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയുണ്ടാകാൻ ശ്രീപത്മനാഭൻ അനുഗ്രഹിക്കട്ടെ എന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടി തല്ക്കാലം വിരമിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

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PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, you have said many kind words about me and you have given me high encomium. I am not at all sure that I deserve the high praise you have bestowed on me. But I rejoice in the thought that I have secured the good opinion of those whose opinion I value. I was not a little gratified to hear the references made to the good work done by the official members of this Council. As for Mr. Subba Aiyar, I do not know where we would have been but for him (*Cheers.*) His indefatigable work, his unrivalled knowledge of law, his experience of the world, and his clear thinking, he placed unstintingly at our service, and, I think, we cannot be sufficiently thankful to him for all that. As regards the other official colleagues, I realise that we demanded of them a change of outlook, and a sacrifice of notions which were perhaps cherished; but, they were ready to respond to our call. They threw off their official distance and isolation. They entered into the spirit of the Council. They strove hard to co-operate with their non-official colleagues and to make the work of this Council a success. I think we all owe them a debt of gratitude for the way in which they conducted themselves and helped this Council to do useful work. (*Cheers*). It will be my pleasing duty to convey to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent the feelings of loyalty and devotion expressed by you. I once more wish you good-bye; and my good wishes go with you. (*Cheers*). I should like to have the privilege of shaking hands with my colleagues.

(The President then shook hands with *all* the members of the Council).

The Council was prorogued at 6-37 P. M.

T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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